

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-24, 27 and 28 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 27 have been amended. Claims 24 and 28 have been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

The limitation "said diffusion blocker configured as a blocker layer interrupted only in at least one of a region having said second contact holes formed therein and a region of said connection pieces" in claim 1 has been amended to "said diffusion blocker configured as a blocker layer interrupted only in a region having said first contact holes formed therein" in order to be consistent with the embodiment I shown in Figs. 1-2 of the instant application.

Claim 27 has also be amended to more clearly recite that upper surface of the blocker layer faces the second isolation layer.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits of claims 1-23 and 27, which read on embodiment I, is solicited.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to  
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and

Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Applicants

YHC:cgm

January 23, 2003

RALPH E. LOCHER  
REG. NO. 41,947

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.  
Post Office Box 2480  
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480  
Tel: (954) 925-1100  
Fax: (954) 925-1101

FAX RECEIVED

JAN 23 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

GR 97 P 6457 P

Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

Claim 1 (amended). An integrated electrical circuit,  
comprising:

a plurality of structure planes including at least one element  
structure plane;

electrically active elements disposed on said at least one  
element structure plane;

a first insulation layer disposed above said at least one  
element structure plane;

said first insulation layer having first contact holes  
disposed therein, and said first contact holes being filled  
with a metal;

a second insulation layer disposed above said first insulation  
layer;

said second insulation layer having second contact holes  
disposed therein and filled with electrical connecting leads,  
and said second contact holes being further filled with copper  
in a whole-area manner;

connection pieces disposed underneath said electrical connecting leads and above said first contact holes;

at least one diffusion blocker disposed underneath said electrical connecting leads, said diffusion blocker at least one of impeding and preventing a diffusion of copper, said diffusion blocker configured as a blocker layer interrupted only in [at least one of] a region having said [second] first contact holes formed therein [and a region of said connection pieces], said blocker layer disposed between said first insulation layer and said second insulation layer; and

said connection pieces being made of aluminum and covering said first contact holes and contacting said connection leads, and said connection pieces being covered by said second isolation layer.

Claim 27 (amended). The integrated electrical circuit according to claim 1, wherein said blocker layer includes an upper surface facing said second isolation layer and a lower surface facing said structure plane, said connection pieces being in contact with said upper surface of said blocker layer.

**FAX RECEIVED**

JAN 23 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800